## J O U R N A L

of

## THE ASIATIC SOCIETY

## No. 76.-April, 1838.

## 1.-Restoration and Translation of the Inscription on the large Arracan Bell now at Nadrohíghát, Zillah Alligarh, described by Captain Wroughton in the Journal of the Asiatic Society, December 1837.

At the suggestion of Colonel Burney the larger of the two facsimiles prepared by Captain Wroughton, which appeared to his pandit to be in the Talain dialect, was sent to Mr. E. Blundele, Commissioner at Maulmain, with a request that he would endeavour to get it read and translated by the natives of that place.

By the hands of Dr. Richardson it was returned to us with a fair transcript of the whole, which we hasten to set up with the aid of the new fount of Burman type cast for the publication of Mr. Lane's Dictionary. The two sides of the bell contain separate copies of the same text, one in Burmese and the other in Talain, both with an admixture of Páli at the commencement and termination. On setting up the Talain, we found so many characters to be wanting that we were obliged to break up the form ; but we have had the whole written in lithography rather than omit it, thinking it might prove interesting to students of these dialects to have the corresponding texts face to face.

For the translation, Mr. Blundell informs us, we are indebted to a young military friend of his who has made some progress in studying the language. The concluding portion being in Páli was translated by Dr . Richardson himself on his way to Calcutta. To all these friends, as well as to their native assistants who must have had no easy task in deciphering the facsimile notwithstanding the care and minuteness with which it was executed, we beg to return our best thanks.

It will be seen that the inscription contains a scrap of history of no amall interest in its way.

It seems that about the beginning of the seventeenth century the king of Pegu being invaded by his neighbour the Burmese sovereign of Pagahm (Pugan the ancient capital described by Colonel Burney in the J. A. S. Vol. IV. p. 400) called in the aid of his ally the king of Martaban, whom, after gaining his object, he sought treacherously to destroy:-but he became justly the victim of his own stratagem, and was defeated by the Martaban king who forthwith possessed himself of Threehenthrwuddee*, (Pegu?) having the four cognomens of Yadzatannee, Bydzatannee, Yattatanee and Yougutannee. He is then represented to have endeavoured to extirpate some heresy that offended the sect of Buddhists he brought with him, by scattering the obnoxious articles: and the final act which the inscription records is its own construction for the worthy object of sounding an alarm that should reach the royal ear when any injustice was crying aloud in the streets ; this was in the year 984 which if it be reckoned in the vulgar Burmese era will correspond with A. D. 1622 .

We cannot help regretting that such a monument should have been removed from the place where it had a name, a history, and an object. to be lost in an obscure Hindu temple in the northwest of India! We know that such sacrilege, for by no other name can we call the plunder of a place of worship, was prohibited ; but the preventive checks must have been small indeed that could take no cognizance of the removal of a mass weighing 31 hundred weight! We should like to see the bell claimed by our civil commissioner and restored by our government, as an act more likely than any other to ingratiate us with the people of Arrucan. We would even compensate in cash the Resáladár, if his conscience would not readily concede the bell from his temple when told that it belonged to the hated and impure followers of Buddha!

With Ratna Paula's aid we have given the correct Páli orthography of many words wrongly spelt on the Bell.-Ed.

> Burma Version.


* Srihansavati, possessed of swans, a name generally applied to Rangoon. The four epithets are Sauskrit namez-Rájadháni, Vidyadhánî, Ratnadháníand Yodhadhani, the abode of royalty, learning, jewels and warriors.

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[On comparing the translation with the original text, through the aid of Ratna Paula, we find that the first half of the inscription is left untranslated, either from its obscurity or from its not containing any thing of material import. Nevertheless as the document is incomplete without it we will endeavour to give the sense of this portion.
" In the course of the Bhattakambha (Bhadrakalpa or golden age) the holy power of (the Buddhas) Kurusanda, Konagamana, and KASYAPA, was manifested; but their religion expired with them. Afterwards the supreme power of the divine mahavira Gautama appeared in the world. From the date of his nibban (nirvan) 1275 years, (A. D. 732) and after that in this 913th* year, (A.D. 1645) a prince is ruling replete with virtue, intelligence, learning and eloquence, vigour and determination ; of a family all virtuous, redressing his subjects' grievances, and distributing favors : he, desiring the opportunity of doing good, consulted with his chief minister Dasabenya and his four ministers in order to extend friendship, and favor, and charity, and to give employ to his subjects of town and country. Dobenya $\dagger$ expounded that the anointed sovereign was one and supreme, that his city contained the five forces, Dasabala, Nyanbala, Káyabala, Tejabala, and Sutabala, which being explained mean, Dasabala the rich, possessed of gold, silver, jewels, \&c.; Nyanbala, the rája himself replete with supremacy, power, command, skill, and majesty ; Káyabala, those having the eighteen sciences, and the warrior class; Tejabala, priests and the wise; and Sutabala (Srutabala), the intelligent inhabitants of town and country. He (the rája) expelled his brother Byano Yo, why? --because he did not walk in the way of the respectable: why was his brother put out of the throne of Pi? (Prome), because he did not honor or favor his nobles and his generals, therefore was he expelled. Dussidat (Tushadatta) commander of the army, with the

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officers and soldiers turned away their minds, and many men of $P \hat{\imath}$ shook off their allegiance. The supreme king gave to his brother Adanín the place where he resides, and to his other brothers, their residences, Yanchesî, Calhat, Talvi, and Labhá, four towns, to receive the revenue thereof; to the ministers Dajamarah and Adacha, the raja had given Kolya. These two were ministers of the right side, they had been guilty of beating, imprisoning and other cruelty and extortion to the citizens and country people......and the people were ruined $\qquad$ .."
Then follows the translation as below, but Ketuvati appears to be the Páli name of the town Puguhu, not the province in which it ìे placed: it is spelt Ketumati (the possessed of the royal banner) in the former Ramrî inscription printed in the Journal, vol. III. p. 209.-Ed.]

## Translation,

"At a propitious moment when the constellation Nekhat* was in the ascendant, on Tuesday the third day of the waning of the moon Tagoo (April) the four divisions of royal troops, consisting of elephanteers, infantry, horsemen and charioteers, marched out of the city of Pagahm in the district of Gaytoowuddee, and arrived in the country of Threehenthawuddee (Pegu) in fifteen days, when a camp was formed.

Then the king of Pegu, collected his grand royal army, and having set it in order, he marched to meet the enemy, and give battle, but being apprehensive of defeat, he dispatched a letter to the king of Mautamma (Martaban) calling upon him for aid. The king of Martaban thereupon collected his nobles, generals, and all his bold and courageous soldiers, and marched to his assistance. When he arrived in the kingdom of Pegu, he mounted the elephant Airawon, and attacked the armies of Pagahm with such firmness and resolution, that it was impossible for them to withstand the shock, and they were completely routed.

The king of Martaban with his nobles, generals and victorious army returning were met by the king of $\boldsymbol{P e g u}$, mounted upon the elephant Vopantathat, and surrounded by the chiefs, and the variously armed divisions of his royal forces. The king of Martaban distrusting him of Pegu, and seeing himself surrounded by his army, began to tremble for

[^1]$\dagger$ Uposatha, the name of a fabulous elephant of supernatural strength, the other animal is called airøvati, the name of Indra's elephant.


[^0]:    * The passage is obscure and the second date 1913 -We suppose the 1 to be an accidental stroke the sense becomes as above. + Dasabenya?

[^1]:    * The word nekhat (nakshatra) signifies lunar mansion; there is therefore some mistake here. The words are didi nekhat, which may be tritiya nakshatra, while the 3 rd mansion was rising, to denote the hour of the day.-Ed.

